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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI.

MASTER OF KUNG FU

GANG WAR!



ZECK
+ DAY



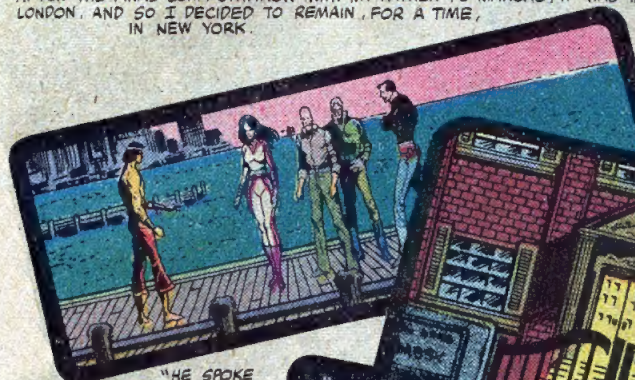
"Call me Shang-Chi, as my father did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. Since then, I have learned that my father is Dr. Fu Manchu, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to honor him would bring nothing but dishonor to the spirit of my name.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

TRIUMPHS OF THE SPIRIT

"THE FAREWELL ON THE DOCKS WAS CONFUSED, FRAGMENTED, AND VERY NEARLY DEFEATED BY EMOTION, BUT AFTER THE FINAL CONFRONTATION WITH MY FATHER FU MANCHU, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO RETURN TO LONDON, AND SO I DECIDED TO REMAIN, FOR A TIME, IN NEW YORK.



"LEIKO JOINED ME TOGETHER. WE SOUGHT REFUGE AT THE HONG KONG EMBASSY WHERE HER BROTHER SERVES AS AMBASSADOR.

"HE SPOKE OF RACIALLY DIVIDED GANGS AND VICIOUS VIOLENCE CLAIMING THE YOUTH OF OLD CHINATOWN. HIS WORDS WERE... UNSETTLING.



"UNDER THE MANTLE OF A NIGHT SWORN AGAINST SLEEP I VENTURED THERE, ALONE, SEEKING THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER...

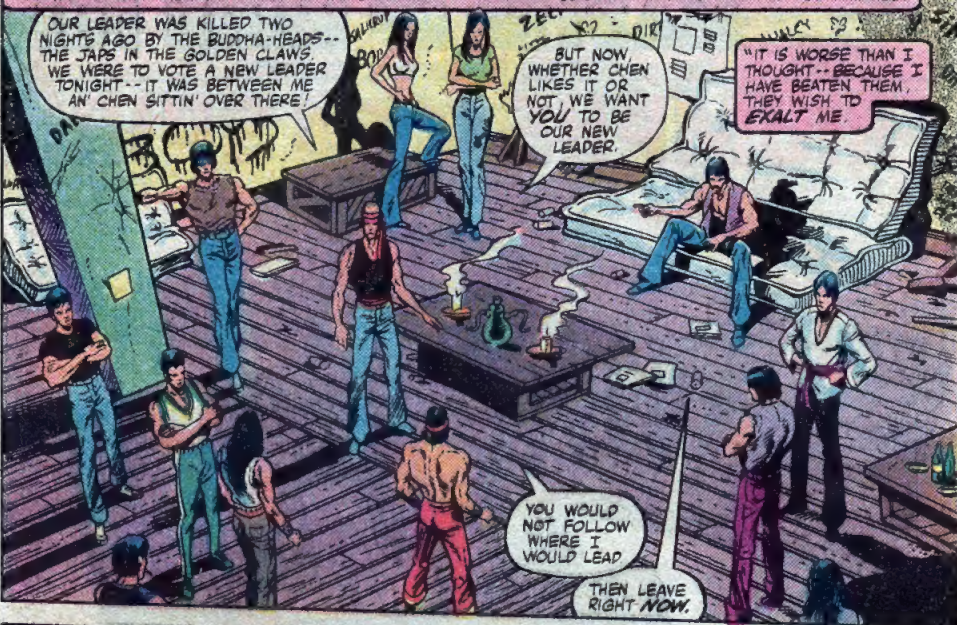


"...AND GOON LEARNED THAT DAVID WU SPOKE IT WELL.

DOUG MOENCH / MIKE ZECK / GENE DAY / JIM NOVAK / BOB SHAREN / JIM SALICRUP / JIM SHOOTER
WRITER ARTIST INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

MASTER OF KUNG FU: Vol. 1, No. 91, August, 1980 Issue. (U.S.P.S. 427-030) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galt, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1980 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 40¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate \$5.00 for 12 issues. Canada, \$6.00. Foreign, \$7.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SHANG-CHI (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP.

"AND NOW, HAVING FOUGHT AND DEFEATED MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE GANG KNOWN AS *THE JOY BOYS*, THEY TAKE ME TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS IN THE BASEMENT OF A RUINED BUILDING... A HOLE FIT ONLY FOR ANIMALS."



"...EVEN IF THE CHOICE MAY BE THE FIRST STEP IN WEAVING MY OWN TRAP."

GOOD. YOUR FIRST ACT WILL BE TO LEAD US IN AN ATTACK ON THE GOLDEN CLAWS-- TOMORROW NIGHT AT NINE, WHILE THEY HOLD THEIR COUNCIL IN BATTERY PARK.

NO-- HIS FIRST ACT IS TONIGHT--MAKING SURE THAT TOMORROW NIGHT'S REVENGE WILL BE CERTAIN...

...BY LEADING THREE MEN ON A GUN-RAID... NOW.

GUN... RAID...?

YEAH... STEAL SOME PIECES FROM THE GUN SHOP UNLESS YOU'RE AFRAID, CHI.

"THEN... THE WEAVING HAS ALREADY BEGUN."

YOU CANNOT MEET THE GOLDEN CLAWS WITHOUT GUNS?

HOW DO YOU THINK OUR LAST LEADER WAS KILLED? IT MUST BE DONE--WITH YOU OR WITHOUT YOU.

VERY WELL.

MAKE YOUR CHOICE, FANCY-PANTS.

"FEELING TRAPPED BUT WITH NO ESCAPE, I MUST GO THROUGH WITH IT."

"CHEN SMILES."

THIS WAY, SHANG-CHI-- THE GUN SHOP'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

OKAY, YOU WAIT HERE, CHI. WE'LL CHECK IT OUT FIRST-- GIVE YOU A SIGNAL IF IT'S CLEAR.

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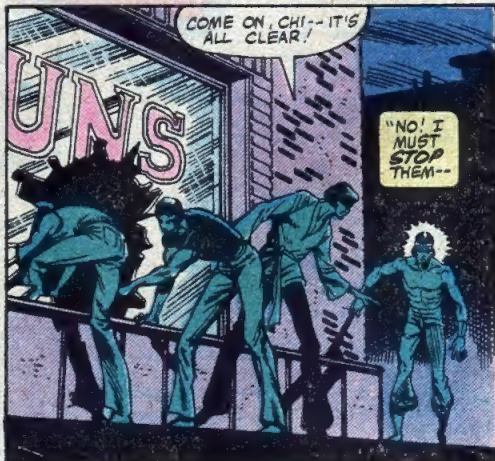
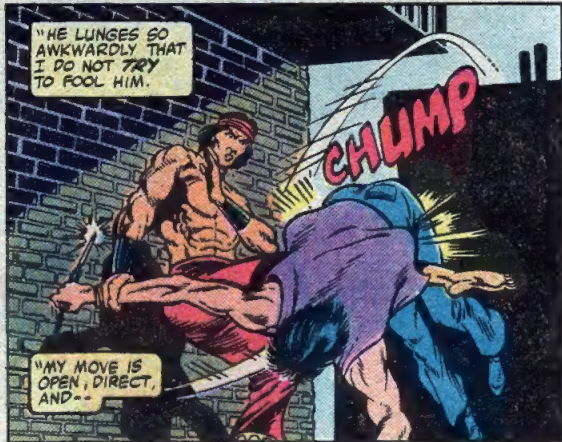
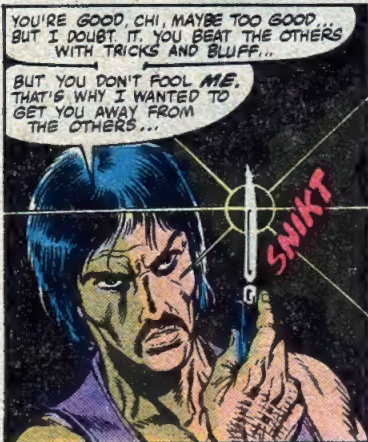
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"ALONE IN THE ALLEY, I CANNOT THINK. IT MOVES TOO FAST, GETTING WORSE BY THE MOMENT..."



"... AND NOW, I CAN NO LONGER WORRY ABOUT LOSING THEIR TRUST."



STOP WHAT YOU'RE DOING! I CANNOT ALLOW IT.



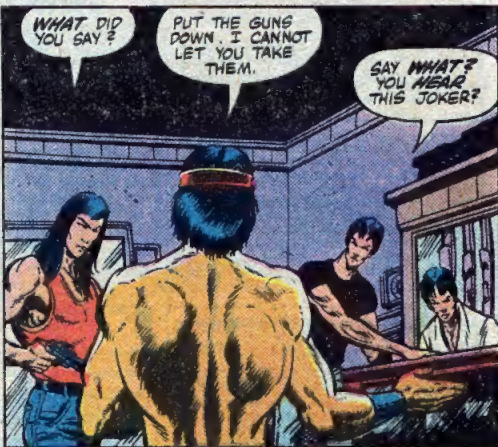
HEY, POLICE-- STOP!!



WHAT DID YOU SAY?

PUT THE GUNS DOWN-- I CANNOT LET YOU TAKE THEM.

SAY WHAT? YOU HEAR THIS JOKER?



THE GUN SHOP AROUND THE CORNER-- FOUR GUYS JUST BROKE IN-- THEY'RE STEALING GUNS!

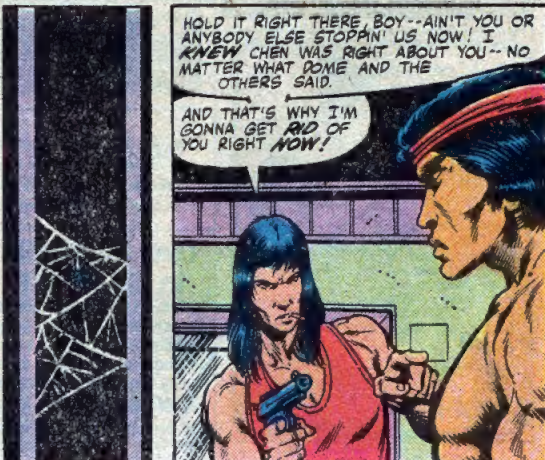
WHAT? YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?



YEAH I'M SURE! HURRY UP BEFORE THEY GET AWAY!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, BOY-- AIN'T YOU OR ANYBODY ELSE STOPPIN' US NOW! I KNEW CHEN WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU-- NO MATTER WHAT DONE AND THE OTHERS SAID

AND THAT'S WHY I'M GONNA GET RID OF YOU RIGHT NOW!



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1484 KING RICHARD III

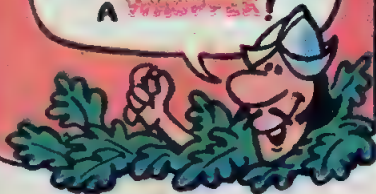
KING RICHARD HAD SUCH A THING FOR WHOPPERS THAT HE TRADED ENGLAND TO THE DUKE OF YUCK FOR A CASE OF THE RICH MALTED MILK TREATS. THE DUKE RENAMED THE COUNTRY ALBANIA AND TURNED IT INTO A CONDOMINIUM. RICHARD WAS CROWNED WITH A SOFTBALL BAT WHEN HE WOULDN'T SHARE HIS WHOPPERS WITH THE QUEEN.

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YOUTH'S OKAY,
BUT YOU CAN'T TOP
A **WHOPPER**!



1850 AL TROVATORE

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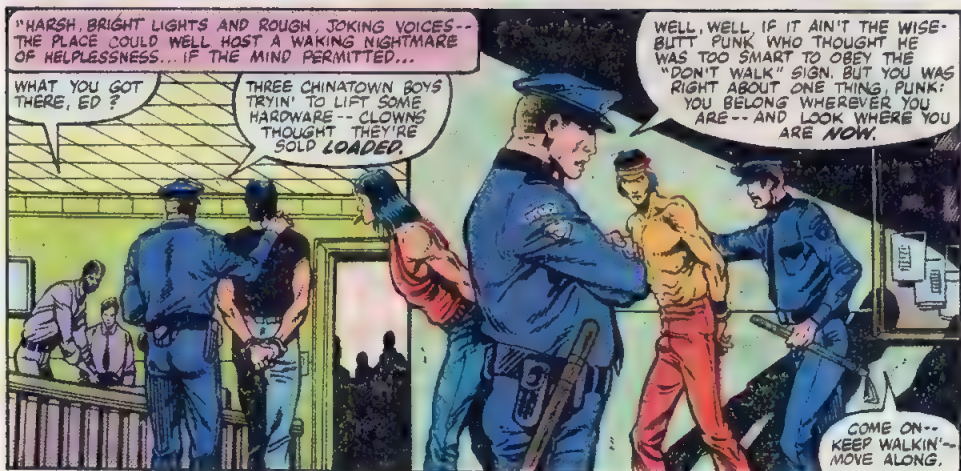
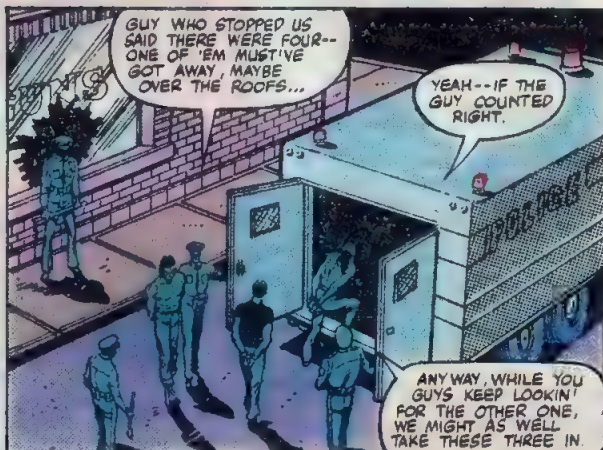
SAM ANDREA'S FAULT

AN EARTH TREMOR BATTING 5.7 ON A WEST COAST SEISMOGRAPH WAS TRACED TO A YOUNG LOS ANGELES BOY EATING WHOPPERS IN THE ELJOU CINEMA. SAID SAM, "IT AIN'T MY FAULT!"

AMERICA'S No. 1
MALTED MILK CANDY



YOU CAN ALWAYS
TELL A **WHOPPER**
WHEN YOU
HEAR ONE **CRUNCH!**



"I MOVE AS TOLD, STOP WHEN TOLD
... WONDERING HOW LONG IT WILL BE
BEFORE LEIKO NOTICES MY
ABSENCE..."



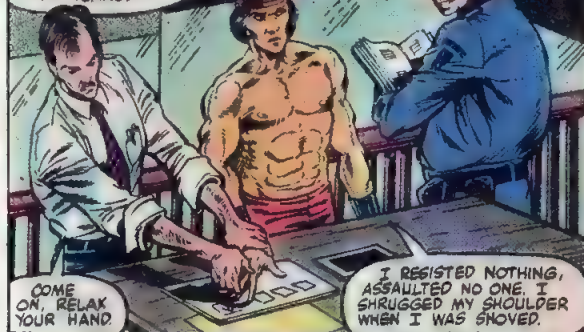
SHANG, I
CAN'T SLEEP
I THOUGHT
WE COULD--

WHAT--? BED'S
NOT SLEPT
IN--



SHANG--?
SHANG! WHERE
ARE YOU?

LET'S SEE-- BREAKIN' AND ENTERIN', VANDALISM, ATTEMPTED
THEFT, THEFT OF FIREARMS, RESISTIN' ARREST, ASSAULTIN' AN
OFFICER... WELL, WELL, HOW 'BOUT THAT, WISE GUY? ACCORDIN'
TO THIS LAW BOOK, IF YOU'RE CONVICTED OF
ALL CHARGES, YOU'LL
GET A MINIMUM OF
74 YEARS.



COME
ON RELAX
YOUR HAND

I RESISTED NOTHING,
ASSAULTED NO ONE. I
SHRUGGED MY SHOULDER
WHEN I WAS SHOVED.

TELL IT TO THE
JUDGE, PUNK. BUT
EVEN KNOCKIN'
THOSE TWO OFF
ONLY BRINGS IT
DOWN TO 72
YEARS. BUT WITH
TIME OFF FOR
GOOD
BEHAVIOR--



--AND A PAROLE
BOARD PARTIAL TO
CHINESE, YOU
COULD BE OUT
IN 35 YEARS.
NOT TOO SHABBY.
COULD BE WORSE,
BELIEVE ME.



"HOW--?"

"IT NEARS
THE END
NOW..."



ALL RIGHT--
IN HERE.



HEY! WHOZAT
MAKIN' NOISE
OUT THERE?

SHUT THAT
DOOR! I'M TRYIN'
TA SLEEP!

"ONLY THE LAST
STEP REMAINS TO
BE TAKEN."



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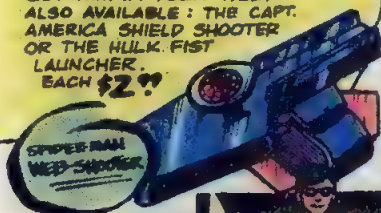
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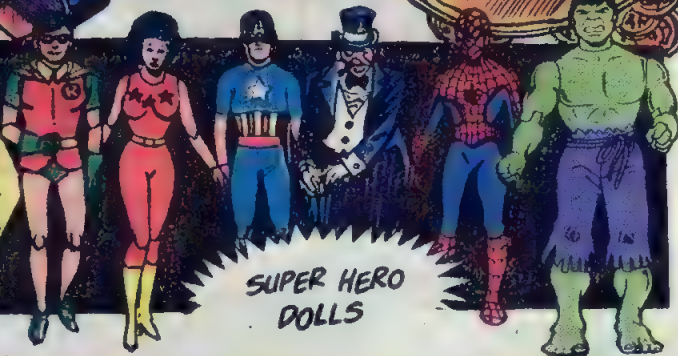


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- SEE IF YOUR FRIENDS DARE STICK THEIR FINGERS BETWEEN HIS FANGS!
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HE'S FEARSOME!
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HE'S FUN!**

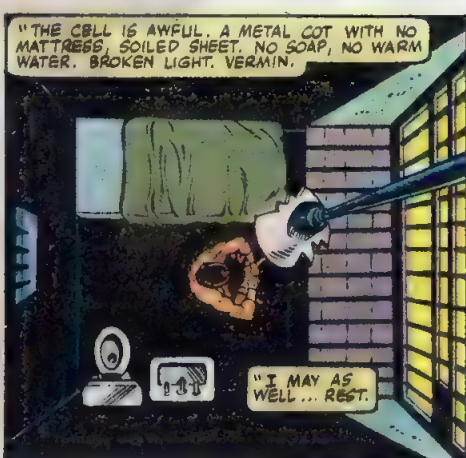
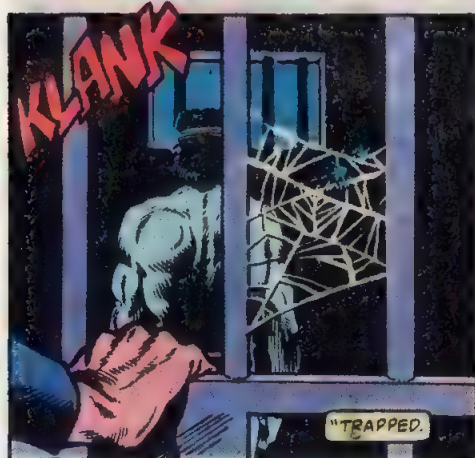
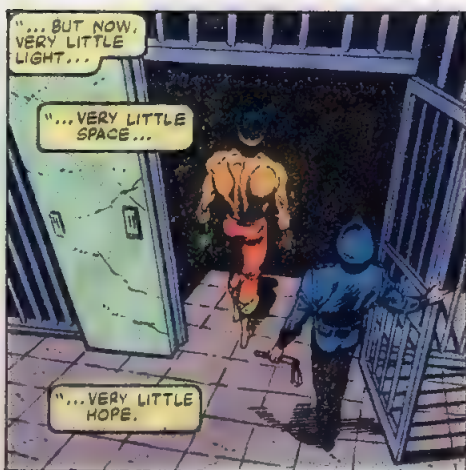
GREGORY™ BIG, BAD, VAMPIRE BAT™ IS 8-INCHES TALL WITH A WINGSPAN MORE THAN A FOOT WIDE!

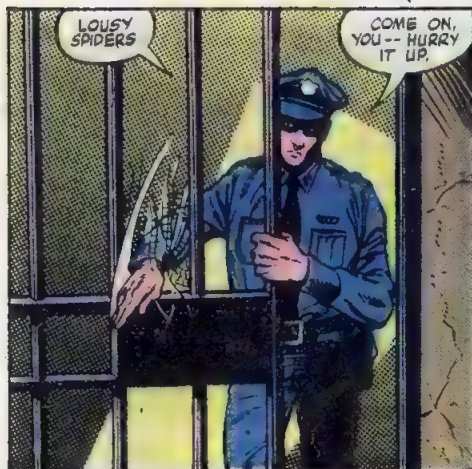
HE'S WAITING FOR YOU AT YOUR PARTICIPATING TOY STORE!

GREGORY. BIG, BAD VAMPIRE BAT

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LOUSY SPIDERS

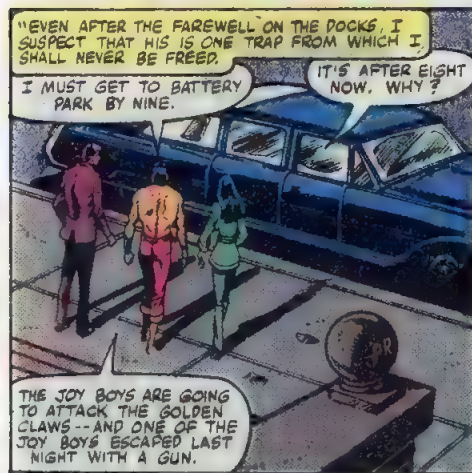
COME ON, YOU-- HURRY IT UP.



ALL RIGHT, YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY VALUABLES, BUT HERE'S YOUR RELEASE FORM. YOUR BOND'LL BE PROCESSED AND REFUNDED, ALL CHARGES ARE BEING DROPPED.

DROPPED?

WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE INFILTRATING THE GANG, NOW THAT WE DO KNOW IT, WE DON'T LIKE IT ANY MORE THAN BEFORE.

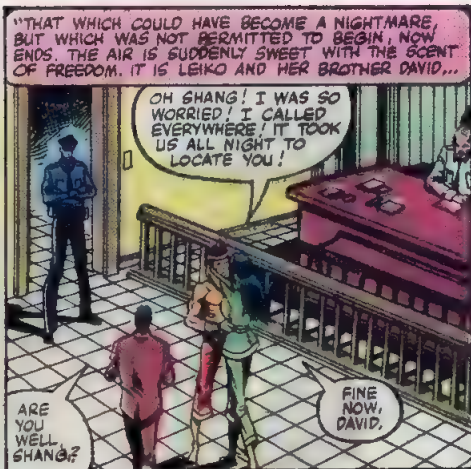


"EVEN AFTER THE FAREWELL ON THE DOCKS, I SUSPECT THAT HIS IS ONE TRAP FROM WHICH I SHALL NEVER BE FREED.

I MUST GET TO BATTERY PARK BY NINE.

IT'S AFTER EIGHT NOW. WHY?

THE JOY BOYS ARE GOING TO ATTACK THE GOLDEN CLAWS--AND ONE OF THE JOY BOYS ESCAPED LAST NIGHT WITH A GUN.

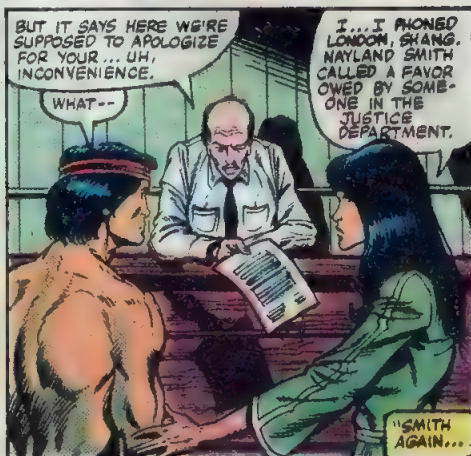


"THAT WHICH COULD HAVE BECOME A NIGHTMARE, BUT WHICH WAS NOT PERMITTED TO BEGIN, NOW ENDS. THE AIR IS SUDDENLY SWEET WITH THE SCENT OF FREEDOM. IT IS LEIKO AND HER BROTHER DAVID...

OH SHANG! I WAS SO WORRIED! I CALLED EVERYWHERE! IT TOOK US ALL NIGHT TO LOCATE YOU!

ARE YOU WELL, SHANG?

FINE NOW, DAVID.

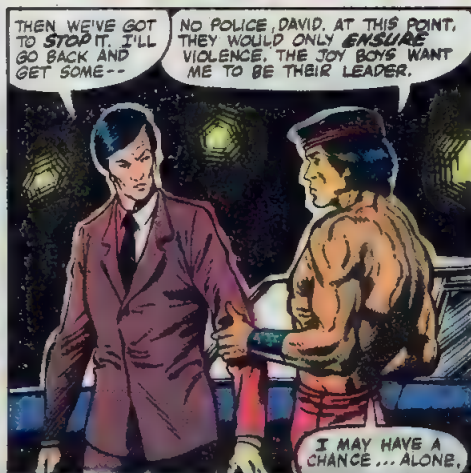


BUT IT SAYS HERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR ... UH, INCONVENIENCE.

WHAT--

I... I PHONED LONDON, SHANG. MAYLAND SMITH CALLED A FAVOR OWED BY SOMEONE IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

SMITH AGAIN...



THEN WE'VE GOT TO STOP IT. I'LL GO BACK AND GET SOME--

NO POLICE, DAVID. AT THIS POINT, THEY WOULD ONLY ENSURE VIOLENCE. THE JOY BOYS WANT ME TO BE THEIR LEADER.

I MAY HAVE A CHANCE ... ALONE.

LEIKO HAS TOLD ME A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOU TODAY, SHANG-CHI. IT SEEMS YOU ARE AN EXTREMELY REMARKABLE YOUNG MAN. EVEN SO, TO ENACT WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND SURELY BORDERS ON DANGER OR--

PLEASE, DAVID...

VERY WELL, SISTER.



"... AND WHEN I OPEN THEM ...

THOSE ARE THE JOY BOYS-- ENTERING THE PARK.

STAY HERE, LEIKO-- BOTH OF YOU-- NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

BUT SHANG-- DAVID HAS BEEN WORKING ON THIS GANG PROBLEM. HE'S UNCOVERED SOME THINGS ABOUT IT. IF HE COULD ONLY TALK TO THEM--

THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN, LEIKO. STAY HERE.

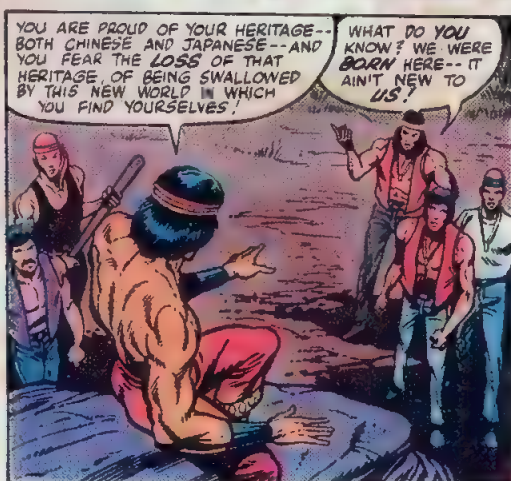
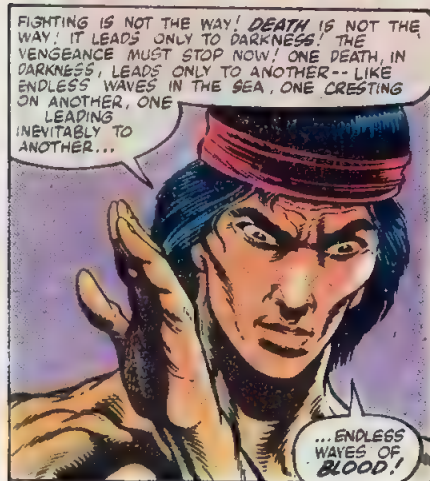
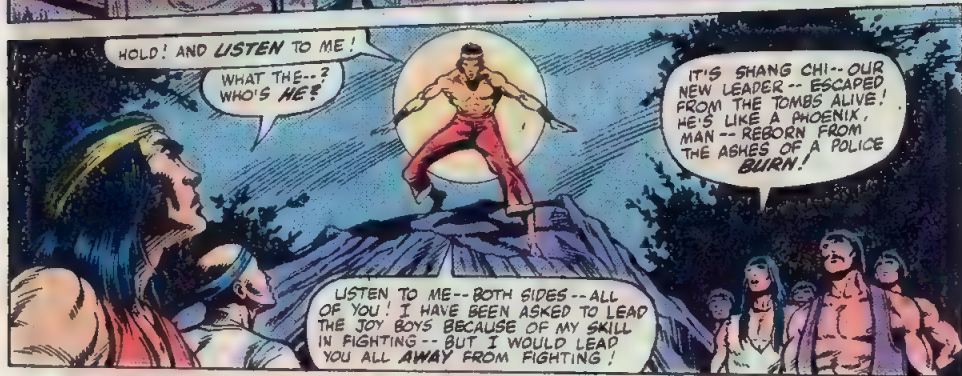
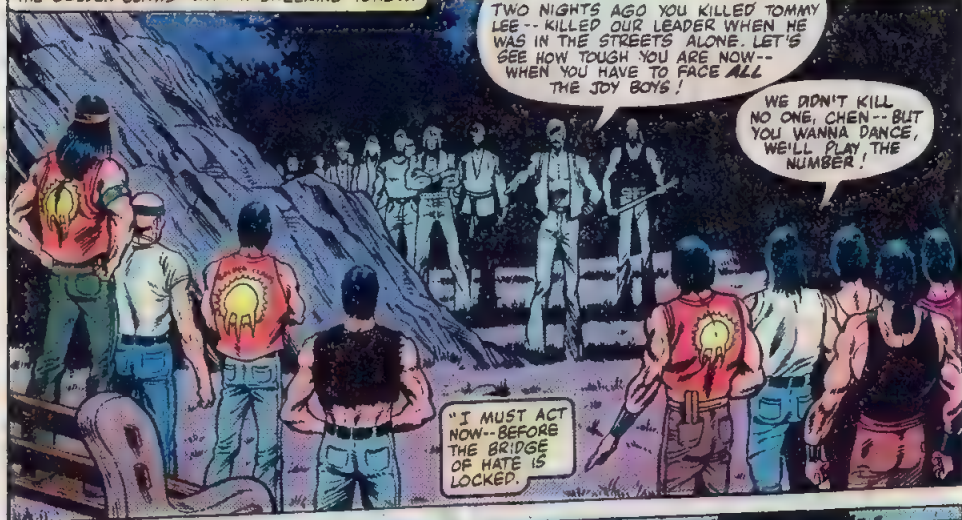
A-ALL RIGHT, SHANG...

... BUT I DON'T PROMISE.

SOMEONE'S COMING-- IT'S THE JOY BOYS!

SO WHAT! WE'RE THE GOLDEN CLAWS. AIN'T WE? LET 'EM COME!

"THE TWO GROUPS MEET. CAREFUL TO MAINTAIN A DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM -- BUT IT IS A SHORT DISTANCE THAT MAY BE BRIDGED ALL TOO QUICKLY. ACTING AS THE NEW LEADER OF THE JOY BOYS, CHEN ADDRESSES THE GOLDEN CLAWS WITH A SNEERING TONE..."





It's the newest Number Yum.
It blows big
beautiful bubbles.
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a long, long, loooong time.

5 great flavors
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THEN PERHAPS I WAS WRONG. PERHAPS YOU DO **NOT** REVERE YOUR HERITAGE, BUT CONSIDER: PERHAPS **YOU** ARE ALSO WRONG. PERHAPS YOU **SHOULD** LOOK TO YOUR HERITAGE, HONOR THE TAO, THE CONCEPTS OF PEACE AND UNIVERSAL HARMONY--



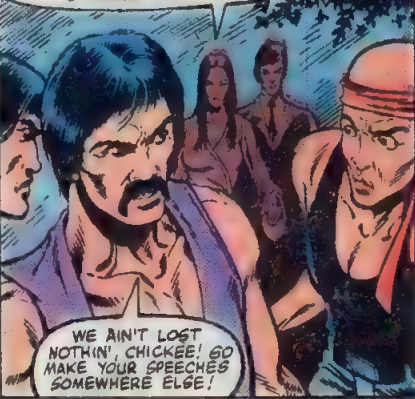
STUFF IT! YOU DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT US! THERE'S NO **PEACE** IN AMERICA, NO UNIVERSAL HARMONY IN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK! YOU'RE FROM ENGLAND-- NOT EVEN AMERICAN, NOT EVEN CHINESE ANYMORE!



WAIT! LISTEN TO HIM!

"IT IS LEIKO-- AND DAVID--DISOBEYING MY--

I'M ALSO FROM ENGLAND-- BUT I'M **STILL** CHINESE. LIKE SHANG, I DON'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND ALL YOUR PROBLEMS, THE HOPELESSNESS AND DESPAIR YOU FEEL, THE LOSS OF DIGNITY CAUSED BY LIFE IN THE STREETS OR--



WE AIN'T LOST NOTHIN', CHICKEE! GO MAKE YOUR SPEECHES SOMEWHERE ELSE!

JUST **LISTEN** FOR A MINUTE! THIS IS MY BROTHER-- DAVID WU. HE'S THE CULTURAL ATTACHE FROM HONG KONG--

BIG DEAL. WE'RE REAL IMPRESSED.

HE'S UNCOVERED SOME FACTS ABOUT THE GANGS IN CHINATOWN, FACTS SOME OF YOU MAY BE UNAWARE OF--

SUCH AS--?



SUCH AS: YOU'RE BEING **USED**-- WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT, YOU'RE BEING MANIPULATED BY ADULT MOBSTERS! YOU'RE SIMPLE **PAWNS**--



--FALLING ON THE STREETS, ONE AFTER THE OTHER, WHILE THE **KINGS** OF CRIME-- THE LORDS OF DRUG TRAFFIC-- GROW RICHER AND FATTER ON YOUR BLOOD!



SO WHAT? EVEN IF IT WAS TRUE, IT'S STILL NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, CHICKEE! IF WE WANT TO--

HOLD IT, CHEN-- I WANT TO HEAR MORE. SHE MIGHT KNOW--

YOU STAY OUTTA THIS, DOME-- SHE DON'T KNOW NOTHIN'!



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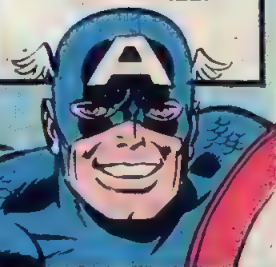
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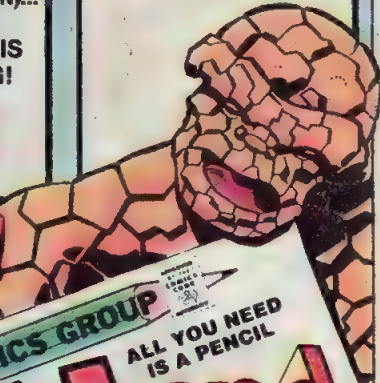
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THE "WHAT'S
MISSING" PAGE IN
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REALLY TURNS ME
ON!

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THOSE JOKES (MOAN)...
I LOVE 'EM ALL!
FUN AND GAMES IS
MY KIND OF MAG!

I SLEEP!



THE MOST
FUN YOU'LL
EVER HAVE
WITH A
PENCIL!

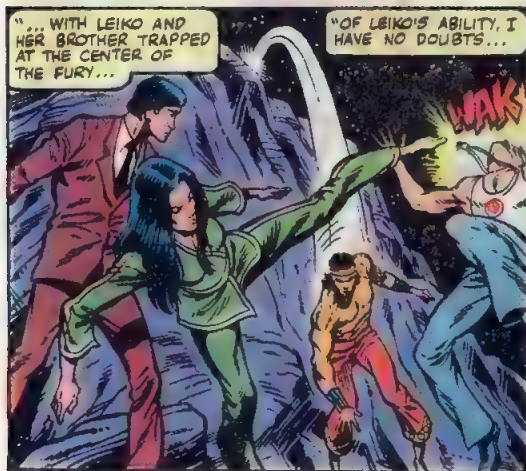
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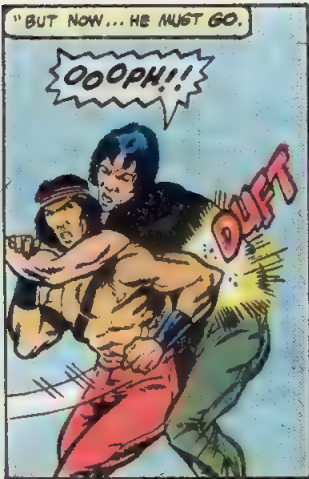
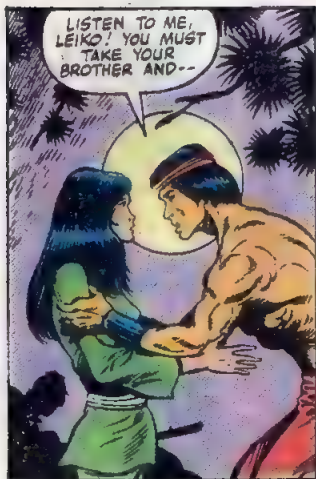
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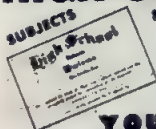
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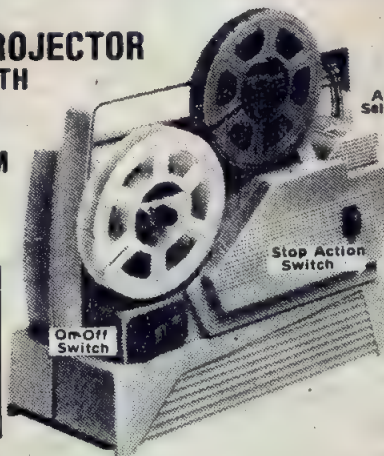
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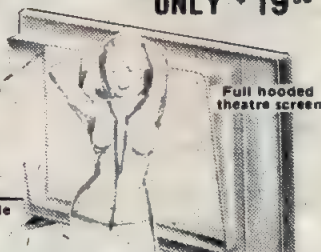
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"BUT NOW, IN A SHOCK OF SPARKLING BRIGHTNESS AND CLARITY, THE FRENZY SHREDS AND FADES, FLEEING FROM A SINGLE SEARING SIGHT: THE YOUTH WHO ESCAPED WITH THE GUN... POINTING IT AT THE LEADER OF THE GOLDEN CLAWS--!"

N-NO... I... I CAN'T... DO IT...

LEIKO--!!

PROTECT YOUR BROTHER! GET HIM AWAY FROM HERE-- NOW!

ARGH-H!

THE GUN, YOU FOOL! IF YOU CAN'T DO IT, GIVE IT TO ME!

BUT--

"TIME FREEZES, AND THE NIGHT TURNS VIVID WITH DARKNESS."

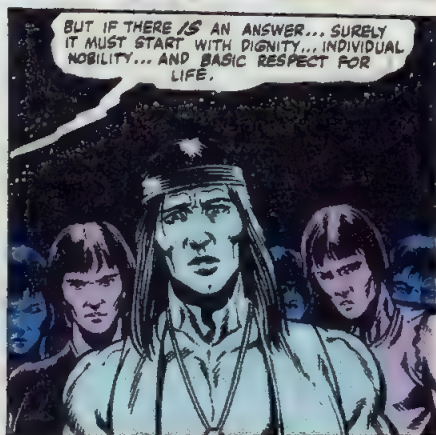
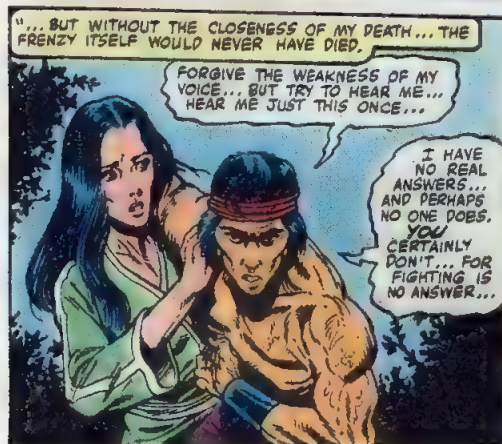
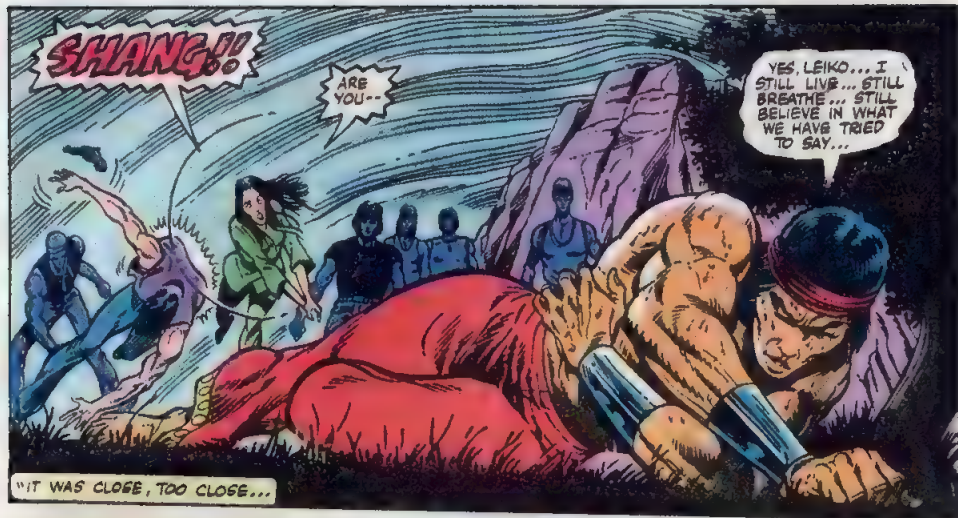
"THE LEADER OF THE GOLDEN CLAWS IS STILL BLIND TO THE DARK FINGERS REACHING FOR HIM.."

"TO SAVE HIM, I MUST BECOME A STRBAK OF LIGHT SPLITTING THE DARKNESS-- EVEN AS A SIMILAR FLASH ERUPTS FROM CHEN'S GUN."

BRAM

WHAT THE--?!!

"PAIN RIPS MY SIDE-- PAIN AND FIRE... AND BLOOD!"



BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hey, gang, I think I'm in big trouble, and since misery loves company, I might as well let you worry along with me! Y'see, I've got this Soapbox column to write and it's due at the printer tomorrow morning! So, I've gotta wrap it up in the next hour, or else! But, for the first time in about twenty years, I can't think of anything to write about! Oh sure, I could tell you to latch on to the second great issue of EPIC, or one of our many new regular comicbook titles, but I've been trying to avoid the big sell here in the Soapbox. Or, I could give you some gossip about what's happening amongst our batty bullpen bigwigs, but Jolly Jim Shooter and his capricious cohorts usually like to feed you those illuminating items themselves. So here I sit, staring at an emotionless type-writer with fear and panic welling up

within my noble breast, while the clock keeps — HEY! Hold it! I thought of something! Wow — saved by the bell! And, best of all, it's something you can help me with!

Ever since I've been out here in Los Angeles, working on Marvel's many magnificent tv and film projects, one thought's been bugging me. I have a feeling that I don't really understand what makes the Saturday morning animated cartoon shows tick on tv! They're so different from the mighty masterworks you find in our mags that they might have originated on another planet. Okay, then, here's what you can do to help me — and perhaps to help the entire world of tv cartoons...

Just send me a short note, no more than 100 words, saying "Here's what I like about tv cartoons: ———", "Here's what I hate about tv cartoons: ———".

and "Here's how to make them better: ———". I'll have our staff of thousands (Irvings Thousands, the boss's uncle) read 'em, and tabulate your opinions. Then, we'll print a summary of your suggestions in a future Soapbox (thereby guaranteeing that I'll have another topic for at least one more column)! Remember, what you write may change the entire tv industry — or, at the very least, give us a case of eyestrain! Just address your oh-so-meaningful missives to STAN LEE'S TV SURVEY, 575 Madison Ave., NYC, NY 10022. Culture lovers, everywhere will be eternally in your debt!

Till we meet again, stay cool, stay happy, and stay in touch with the EPIC Epidemic! (Might as well get a plug in somewhere!)

Excelsior!

Stan

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST!

- ☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #86** — The Thing and the Scarlet Witch battle the Slaves of the Serpent Crown!
- ☐ **SHOGUN WARRIORS #19** — Secrets of the alien invaders!
- ☐ **SPIDER-WOMAN #29** — Spider-Woman vs. the Fly!
- ☐ **STAR TREK #5** — The haunted house of space!
- ☐ **MACHINE MAN #16** — Who are... Baron Brimstone and the Satan Squad?
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES #90** — Reprints Avengers #88 (story by Harlan Ellison). The Avengers must save the Hulk from the menace of *Psylop!*
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #207** — Defeated by Mesmero!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #248** — A mystery villain sets Dragon Man against Cap!
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #20** — Showdown with Odd John! Guest-stars Ant-Man!
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #47** — Ghost Rider is the victim of the most dangerous cycle gang of all!
- ☐ **BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #15** — "Forbidden Fruit!"
- ☐ **SAVAGE SHE-HULK #7** — Guest-starring Man-Thing!
- ☐ **FUN & GAMES #12** — Marvel-ous mazes, puzzles, word-games and more!
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE #42** — The master mage enters the "Realm of the Black Mirror!"
- ☐ **THOR #298** — Fafnir the death-dragon attacks!

- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER ACTION #22** — Reprints Avengers #61. Guest-starring Dr. Strange and the Black Knight!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #198** — Enter... *Red Ronin!* (Remember him from *Godzilla's* mag?)
- ☐ **CONAN #113** — "A Devil in the Family!"
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #118** — Reprints Spider-Man #141. *Mysterio's* Revenge!
- ☐ **MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #91** — Reprints FF #111: "The Thing Amok!"
- ☐ **X-MEN #136** — Dark Phoenix strikes!
- ☐ **TALES TO ASTONISH #9** — Reprints Sub-Mariner #9. The horrifying truth about the Helmet of Power!
- ☐ **ROM #9** — ROM must face... "The Last Survivor!"
- ☐ **FANTASY MASTERPIECES #5** — Reprinting Silver Surfer #9. Final battle with the Flying Dutchman and Mephisto! Plus, from *Strange Tales* #175, Starlin's Warlock in "Death Ship!"
- ☐ **POWER MAN & IRON FIST #64** — Luck and Death declare war on the Power/Fist team!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #137** — Fiery disaster on an off-shore oil rig!
- ☐ **PETER PARKER #45** — Web-head and the Vulture slug it out in Grand Central Station!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #221** — "Crisis at the North Pole!"
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #86** — Spidey teams up with Howard the Duck!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #250** — Special double-sized 250th anniversary issue guest-starring the Silver Surfer!

- ☐ **DEFENDERS #86** — "The Left Hand of Silence!"
- ☐ **AMAZING ADVENTURES #9** — Reprints the first half of X-Men #5. The Evil Mutants make their move!
- ☐ **STAR WARS #38** — *The Empire Strikes Back*, part 1. Adapted by Archie Goodwin and Al Williamson.
- ☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #91** — The climax of Shang Chi's Chinatown adventure!
- ☐ **MARVEL PREMIERE #55** — Preesentment... Wonder Man!
- ☐ **SGT. FURY #159** — Reprinting Sgt. Fury #63. What is the new Howler's terrible secret?
- ☐ **WHAT IF #22** — "What if Dr. Doom Were a Hero?"
- ☐ **PETER PARKER ANNUAL #2** — For the first time ever... the villainy of *Rapier!*

MARVEL MAGAZINES

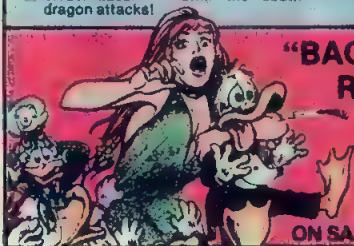
- ☐ **EPIC #2** — The stunning second issue of Marvel's visual odyssey! Contributions by Thomas, Corben, Chaykin, Starlin, Goodwin, Russell, and many more!
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL #16** — *The Empire Strikes Back* — adapted by Goodwin and Williamson. *Complete in this issue!*
- ☐ **CRAZY #64** — The Best of Crazy!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #54** — The finale of "Conan and the Sorcerer!"
- ☐ **MARVEL PREVIEW #22** — "The Quest of King Arthur!" by Doug Moench and John Buscema!
- ☐ **HOWARD THE DUCK #5** — Howard's wild return to Duckworld!

"BACK TO THE EGG." HOWARD AND BEV'S RETURN TO THE FEARLESS FOWL'S HOME PLANET... DUCKWORLD!

IN THE PAGES OF HOWARD THE DUCK #6

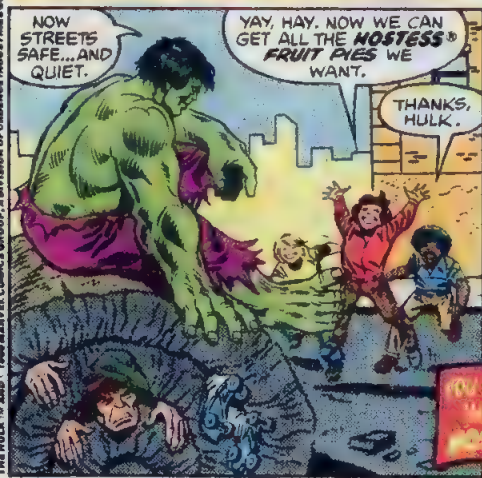
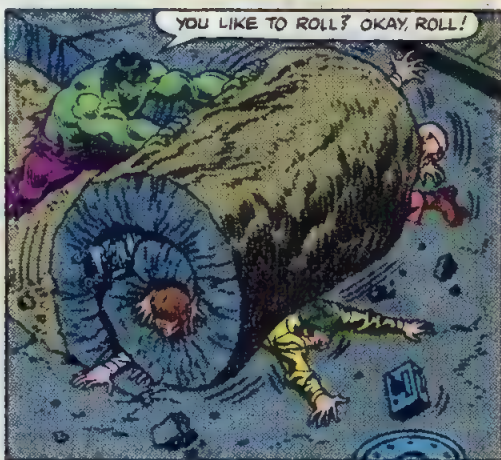
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THE INCREDIBLE HULK VS. THE ROLLER DISCO DEVILS!

THE ROLLER DISCO DEVILS HAVE BEEN TERRIFYING THE TOWN.



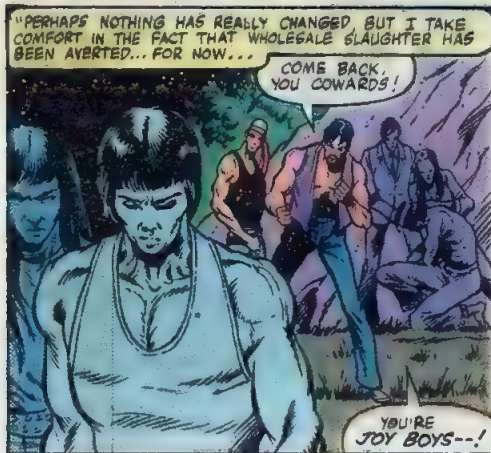
"THEY ARE SHAMED, BUT UNCOWED... STILL HATING EACH OTHER WITH A HATE TRANSCENDING MERE MANIPULATION FOR DRUG TRADE."

"BUT... AT LAST... THEY TURN AWAY, FOR TONIGHT AT LEAST, THERE WILL BE AN UNEASY TRUCE."



"PERHAPS NOTHING HAS REALLY CHANGED, BUT I TAKE COMFORT IN THE FACT THAT WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER HAS BEEN AVERTED... FOR NOW..."

COME BACK, YOU COWARDS!



YOU'RE JOY BOYS--!

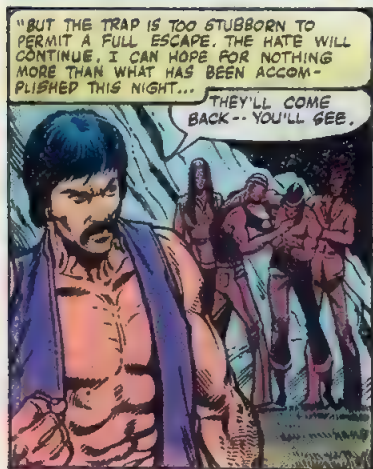
YOU CAN'T LEAVE NOW! COME BACK-- DO YOU HEAR ME? YOU CAN'T--

SHUT UP, CHEN! YOU'RE FINISHED.



"BUT THE TRAP IS TOO STUBBORN TO PERMIT A FULL ESCAPE. THE HATE WILL CONTINUE. I CAN HOPE FOR NOTHING MORE THAN WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED THIS NIGHT..."

THEY'LL COME BACK-- YOU'LL SEE.

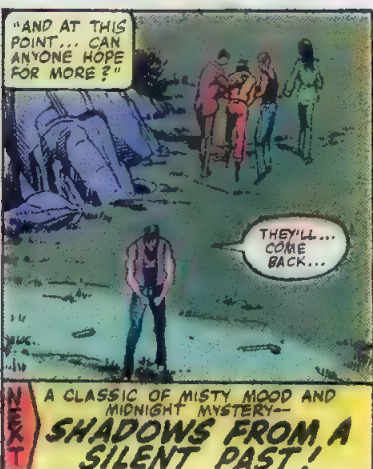


"LIFE, AT LEAST, GOES ON..."



"AND AT THIS POINT... CAN ANYONE HOPE FOR MORE?"

THEY'LL... COME BACK...



NEXT A CLASSIC OF MISTY MOOD AND MIDNIGHT MYSTERY--
SHADOWS FROM A SILENT PAST!

A TRAVAIL OF TWO CITIES

Dear Doug and Mike:

MASTER OF KUNG FU is an extremely enjoyable comic-book. The current storyline is an exciting and intriguing one, and the characters are, as usual, well depicted. The standard of writing and artwork is very high. And I particularly like the fact that the series is set in Great Britain...

But it's a very different Britain to the one I live in! I've seen Marvel's version of the U.K. in many titles, from CAPTAIN BRITAIN TO THE INVADERS... and I just wish you could get some of the details correct. Right now I'm looking at MOKF #81 — "Breathless" — and on the splash page I see a car with left-hand steering and an impossible registration plate. And page 3: Reston's line, "Jacket set me back ninety bob." It's been so long (nine years) since we converted to decimal coinage that I had to pause to work out the figures! And four and a half pounds is not a reasonable price — Britain isn't that cheap! Forty-five pounds, I'd believe.

Page 7: British telephone kiosks are of two designs; the one here is of a third, unknown to me. Page 11: The "London Museum"; surely you mean the British Museum?

Maybe this sounds like nitpicking, but I could go on and on. Victoria Station has changed an awful lot between MOKF #80 and the last time I was there, a month ago. The cover of #81 shows Big Ben in the wrong place; it should be on the other side of the bridge. And you can't have car chases and shootouts in the middle of London — it's too crowded.

Now I realize you're working to a schedule and can't do a lot of research, but although any one or two of these mistakes would be quite forgivable, together they're just too much! I've lived in London and frankly wouldn't recognize the place as shown in MOKF if I weren't told.

The really annoying thing, though, is that this spoils my complete enjoyment of what is otherwise a very fine book.

Andy Gilham
White Roding, Dunmow
Essex CM8 1RJ United Kingdom

Dear Doug & Co.,

What can I say? You just keep on turning out one spell-binding mystery after another! Everything about this book is superb, except for one minor quibble...

The fact that the strip is set in or centered around the U.K. both appeals to and appalls me. The England you depict has about as much reference to the real place as New York does to the Emerald City in Oz. Oh, I can forgive you moving Blythe Books some 40-odd miles from the countryside to the heart of London; after all, what's a free plug between friends? I might even be able to overlook the American style telephone box that turned up in #73, though I can't see why you don't get the Marvel U.K. office to send you some reference photos. English phone-boxes are big and red and you can stand in them with ease (with all the rain we get, it's a necessity), and if I ever see another one of those stupid trashcan style mailboxes in place of our beautiful five-foot high round red "pillar-boxes," I shall scream.

However, all the foregoing is as nothing compared to the way you continually refer to the MI-6 office being in Whitechapel. All government offices are in Whitehall! — near the houses of Parliament. Whitechapel is out near the East-end, dockland, where the real Cockneys come from! Still, being a card-carrying Marvelite, I believe I can get you out of this terrible mistake. The old prewar district of Limehouse — the "Chinatown" of Sax Rohmer — was in the East-end, so it's possible that MI-6 would set up a "Fu Manchu Office" in the heart of the war zone. This must be the office Petrie refers to as being in Whitechapel (now no longer known as Limehouse), whereas MI-6 HQ must be in Whitehall, especially as you've shown Shang-Chi in the shadow of Parliament as he enters MI-6.

Finally, if you can't find any reference on your own, let me know. I'll do what I can to make such an excellent book even better.

Dean Smith
39 Upland Avenue; Chesham
Bucks HP5 2EB England

Okay, guys, you've nailed us and we admit it. We've been grossly wrong many a time in our depictions of London/British landmarks, arcana, and even everyday life artifacts. There are indeed a multitude of discrepancies, both large and small, between your real London and Shang-Chi's mythic London. But believe it or not (and setting bone-headed mistakes such as American mailboxes aside), that's just the way Doug and Mike — and, er think, the majority of American readers — prefer it to be. And we're not being cavalier about our genuine mistakes; we're simply trying to justify the "incorrect" essence of our version of London.

To you, Andy and Dean, London is home, familiar reality, objectively exciting and, perhaps on occasion, objectively drab and dreary. But to most American readers, London is a subjective experience, a Faraway Place steeped in the richly evocative lore and trappings of Robin Hood, Oliver Twist, Sherlock Holmes, Jack the Ripper, Oscar Wilde, James Bond, the Rolling Stones, and kings and queens. When we think of London we conjure romantic images of cobbled streets, hansom cabs, gaslights, atmospheric fog, appealingly "foreign" accents and attitudes, stone lions, stiff upper lips, Big Ben, Tower Bridge (which we tend to erroneously call London Bridge), fish & chips, Boar's Head Pubs, ale, mini-skirts, spiffy MGs and Aston-Martins, and so on down the Anglo cultural line. The fundamental similarities shared by the British and the Americans only serve to render the differences in detail all the more tantalizing. (Doug's early childhood memories of Scotland, for example, conjure a Never-Neverland of Fantasy rather than an actual foreign country; how could it have been foreign when everyone spoke English with but a slight difference?)

So, to you London is understandably and naturally a familiar place where reality cannot be easily warped. But to us, London is a fabulously mysterious realm where the familiar provides rich loam for the imagination.

London is more, much more, of course, than the above string of archetypes and benign stereotypes. We're aware of this — just as you're aware that Chicago is comprised of much more than Al Capone, bootleggers, Saint Valentine's Day massacres, the birthplace of the Atom Bomb, Lake Shore Drive, a Picasso Statue, stockyards, Water Tower, rhythm & blues music, and the skullbusting Democratic Convention of '68 — but sometimes we wish we weren't aware of the reality. The imagination is always a better substitute.

However, lest you think our various toyings with reality are exclusively reserved for foreign locales, we hasten to point out that Marvel's home turf — the real Manhattan — is hardly the same "Manhattan" portrayed in so many of the "Marvel Universe" titles. Sure, we strive to maintain surface similarities (both Manhattans, for example, lay claim to Statues of Liberty, Empire State Buildings, and wisecrack kamikaze cab drivers), as well as an underlying and overriding gestalt similarity at the very heart of both Manhattans. And for good reason: Myth-Realms, whether "London," "Manhattan," or Ka-Zar's Savage Land, evince more impact when rooted in a basic foundation of reality. Beyond that, however, the battleship at Marvel has been and will remain: *Anything Goes!*

In conclusion, then: Many of our London gaffes are gross and unintentional; these we will certainly attempt to correct in the future. (And yes, Dean, Doug and Mike would appreciate any reference you can provide.) But our other departures from reality are deliberate extensions of the imagination. We ask only that you indulge us to a certain degree (as Manhattanites do...) and hope that you enjoy our monthly tour through a new realm of ancient inspiration.

Be a DRAFTSMAN

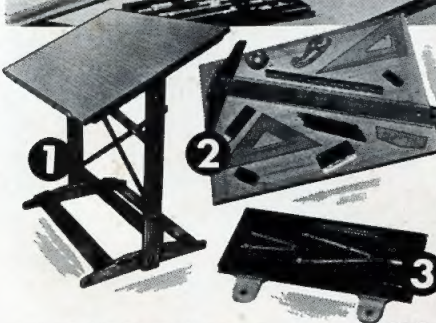
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